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Idaho Red Meat Production Up 33 Percent

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for February 2006 totaled 24.0 million pounds, up 33 percent from last year according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. February production was up 2 percent from the 23.5 million pounds produced in January. Accumulated red meat production for the January-February 2006 period totaled 47.5 million pounds, up 17 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005. Beef production, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,000 head, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight was 35 pounds above last year, at 362 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

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